

Message Text

SECRET

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12

ACTION EA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 PM-03 SP-02 L-01

INR-05 CIAE-00 MC-01 EB-03 RSC-01 /042 W

----- 065739

R 010310Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1454

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

CINCPAC

SECDEF WASHDC

S E C R E T SINGAPORE 4396

LIMDIS

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, SN, RP

SUBJ: SALE OF M-16 RIFLES TO PHILIPPINES

REF: SINGAPORE 4389

1. ON OCTOBER 31 I RECEIVED TWO LETTERS SIGNED BY MINISTER OF DEFENSE GOH KENG SWEE. ONE LETTER REPORTED THE REQUEST RECEIVED FROM THAI POLICE TO SUPPLY 25,000 M-16 RIFLES (SEE REFTEL). RECOGNIZED REQUIREMENT FOR USG CONCURRENCE, AND REQUESTED OUR EARLY CONSIDERATION (TEXT BY SEPTTEL). OTHER LETTER CONTAINED EXPLANATION OF SALE OF 10,000 M-16 RIFLES TO PHILIPPINES, INCLUDED APOLOGY THAT USG CONCURRENCE HAD BEEN OVERLOOKED AND EXPRESSED FIRM COMMITMENT THAT THIS REQUIREMENT WOULD BE STRICTLY COMPLIED WITH IN FUTURE CASES. TEXT AS FOLLOWS:

QTE DEAR AMBASSADOR, THIS IS TO CONFIRM CERTAIN MATTERS WHICH WE DISCUSSED YESTERDAY OVER THE SUPPLY OF M-16 TO THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PHILIPPINES. THE DEFENCE DEPARTMENT OF THE
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PHILIPPINES APPROACHED US SOME TIME AGO FOR THE SUPPLY OF 10,000

M-16 RIFLES ON AN URGENT BASIS. OUR FIRST REACTION WAS TO REQUEST THEM TO PURCHASE THESE FROM COLTS, BUT THEY STATED THAT THEY WERE UNABLE TO GET THE NUMBER OF RIFLES THEY REQUIRED WITHIN THE TIME THEY WANTED THEM. AS THEY MADE IT APPARENT THAT THE SUPPLY WAS IN URGENT REQUIREMENT, WE PROPOSED THAT THE TRANSACTION BE CARRIED OUT AT THE SAME PRICE AT WHICH THE COULD HAVE BOUGHT FROM COLTS. THEY AGREED TO THIS. WE ASSUMED THAT AS THERE WAS NO FINANCIAL ADVANTAGE IN BUYING FROM US, WHAT THEY HAD TOLD US WAS GENUINE AND THE TRANSACTION WAS CONCLUDED. DELIVERY WAS EFFECTED BY HERCULES AIRCRAFT OF THE PHILIPPINES AIR FORCE.

QTE MY DIRECTOR OF LOGISTICS IS OUT OF SINGAPORE AT THE MOMENT ATTENDING A CONFERENCE IN BANGKOK AND THE PAPERS ON THE SUBJECT ARE APPARENTLY KEPT IN HIS SAFE. I AM THEREFORE UNABLE TO QUOTE MORE DETAILS ABOUT THE ARRANGEMENTS BUT I BELIEVE THAT MY PERMANENT SECRETARY HAD RAISED THIS MATTER WITH YOUR MILITARY ATTACHE AND HE WILL BE GLAD TO FURNISH YOU WITH FURTHER DETAILS IF YOU NEED THEM.

QTE I REGRET THAT THE REQUIREMENT TO OBTAIN THE AGREEMENT OF YOUR GOVERNMENT IN ADVANCE OF THE TRANSACTION WAS OVERLOOKED IN THIS INSTANCE AND I ASSURE YOU THAT THIS REQUIREMENT WILL BE STRICTLY COMPLIED WITH IN FUTURE CASES. YOUR SINCERELY,
GOH KENG SWEE UNQUOTE.

2. SIGNED ORIGINALS OF BOTH LETTERS POUCHED TO EA/IMS.
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NNN

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